

The Sunday-School.

THE FALL OF JERICOHO.

The Sunday school lesson for September 1, is found in Josh. 6: 8-20.

To get the connection of the story that leads up to to-day's lesson, read Joshua 4 and 5, also chap. 6: 1-7, the events of which may be summed up as follows: 1. The twelve stones for a memorial out of Jordan. 2. Passing the Jordan. 3. The renewal of circumcision. 4. The Pass-over at Gilgal. 5. Manna ceaseth. 6. An angel appeareth to Joshua. 7. Joshua instructed how to besiege Jericho. Read also Heb. 11: 30-34.

LIFE TEACHINGS.

1. There are few lessons that teach more emphatically the importance of perfect obedience, than this one. Especially is this true when there seems to be no reason given for obedience. What good could walking about the walls of Jericho do? Why six times? Why seven times the seventh day? Why shout and blow the trumpet? And yet this was God's plan—it was his direction, and must be followed. No doubt the inhabitants of the city laughed at Joshua and his men as they marched about the walls which stood there firm and invulnerable, defying even the strongest batteries. But Joshua knew that he was doing all this in obedience to the word of him who has all power, and that God will give victory to his faith. Here is a much needed lesson. Our business is to *obey*, not doubting nor asking any questions.

2. God had promised to give Jericho into the hands of Joshua, but he must *work* for it. So has God given us salvation and promised us heaven *free*, but we must have faith in the promises and show our faith by following Christ. Every promise of God has its condition which requires us to show our faith by works. All blessings wait upon faith and obedience; God gives victory to faith but faith must show itself in obedience. God promises us success in doing good, but we must ourselves *do good*. Salvation is a free gift, pardon of sin, reconciliation, peace and joy are gifts from God's bountiful hand, he *gives* them, and yet they are obtained only on conditions—faith, repentance and baptism, and until we have complied with these conditions, we have no right to expect the blessings of the promises.

A COMET draws more attention than the steady star; but it is better to be the star than the comet; following out the sphere and orbit of quiet usefulness in which God places us.—*Dr. John Hall.*

LITERARY NOTES.

The Rev. Dr. William Elliot Griffis has again been in Holland this summer, and as a result of his studies there he writes two articles, which will shortly appear in THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL TIMES, on the "Dutch Bible Teaching" and "Holland's Place in the Annals of Education." He shows how the methods of religious instruction on the Continent differ from those of America, and although there are good reasons why Europeans are slow to adopt the Sunday-school idea, yet in America the Sunday-school is a mighty civilizer as well as a Christianizing force. In the second article he discusses the glorious record which Holland has made in the annals of education, and tells of his visit to the home of the immortal Comenius.

Reliable lists of Sunday-school library books are much desired by library committees, but they are not always easily obtainable. THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL TIMES has already published several carefully prepared lists from which selections might be made, and now another will soon appear in that paper. As a guide for purchasers, the character of each book is briefly described. The books are not for sale by the SUNDAY-SCHOOL TIMES, and hence the description of them is entirely free from commercial interest of any kind.

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SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.—Of all the recent efforts at writing the life of Napoleon in popular style, Miss Farbell's easily leads, in point both of merit and of interest. It first appeared serially in *McClure's Magazine*, and is now published in a handsomely printed cloth-bound volume, with 250 illustrations. The book is having an enormous sale at \$1.00 per copy. PUBLIC OPINION (New York City) is actually giving away this fine volume to new subscribers. Write for particulars.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW for August is full of good things. Dr. Gregory continues his series on "The Preacher and the Preaching for the Present Crisis." His paper in the July number on "The Relation of Preaching to Reform" attracted wide attention and elicited hearty approval; the August paper, on "Preaching the Law," as a necessary preparation for the Gospel with its regeneration and reform, deals also with one of the "burning questions." Dr. Coburn's article, on "The Old Syriac Gospel Recently Discovered at Mt. Sinai," is a thorough discussion of that interesting document, the age of the text and of the MSS., and a capital repre-

sentation of the main points of variation from the commonly received Greek text.

The Sermonic Section illustrates in Archdeacon Farrar and Dr. George Gordon the directness, forcefulness, and eloquence with which the Law of God is preached and pressed upon the consciences of men, in two of the most aristocratic and cultured centers of the world, Westminster Abbey, London, and the Old South Church, Boston. The suggestive outline of Henry Ward Beecher's discourse on "Spiritual Power in Preaching," from the original manuscript used by him in the pulpit of Plymouth Church seems to take us again into the presence of that great pulpit orator.

"Hints at the Meaning of Texts" is an added department that promises to prove itself especially helpful. "Light on Scriptural Truths from Recent Science and History," and "Helps and Hints, Textual and Topical," contain striking thoughts and analysis, for the preacher's use. Dr. Fairfield's Exegetical and Expository article on "Born of Water," goes far toward removing the difficulties of a very difficult passage, its treatment of the subject being equally original and natural.

The Topics of Dr. Stuckenberg's "Social Problem"—A Boycott; Progress of the Laboring Classes; For the Thinker and Worker; The Preacher and Social Themes; With the Specialists; The Burning treatment. Dr. Samuel W. Dike, an expert in Sociology, essays to answer the difficult question "What is Sociology?" whose answer we all want to know.

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YOUR manners will depend very much upon the quality of what you frequently think on; for the soul is tinged and colored with the complexion of thought.—*Marcus Aurelius.*

PRAYER is so mighty an instrument that no one ever thoroughly mastered all its keys. They sweep along the infinite scale of man's wants and God's goodness.—*Hugh Miller.*

Our Dead.

HORNER.—August 5, 1895, near Stoneville, Pa., sister Jennie Horner, wife of brother E. M. Horner, aged 33 years, 11 months and 12 days. She leaves a husband and two children to mourn their loss. Funeral services conducted by Rev. Halloway of the Lutheran church, of which she was a consistent member.

M. C. MEYERS.

Mt. Pleasant, Pa.